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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/742,091	12/22/2000	Kirk Wayne Bauer JR.	8887.002	6999
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NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C. SUITE 1000 999 PEACHTREE STREET ATLANTA, GA 30309-3915				
			EXAMINER BURGESS, BARBARA N	
			ART UNIT 2157	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/742,091

Applicant(s)

BAUER ET AL.

Examiner

Barbara N. Burgess

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8-25-05.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to Pre-Brief Appeal Conference decision filed April 19, 2006. The finality of claims 1-20 has been withdrawn. Claims 1-20 are presented for further examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6 8-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Anupam et al. (hereinafter “Anupam”, US Patent 5,862,330).

As per claims 1, 14, Anupam discloses a collaborative browsing system and method for a computer network comprising network servers hosting a plurality of network sites, comprising:

- A main server bi-directionally connected to the computer network, the main server containing a cell manager for grouping locations of the network sites into cells (column 2, lines 19-21, 44-45, 47-48, column 3, lines 58-60);
- A plurality of client programs bi-directionally connected to the main server via the network and each connected to at least one of the network sites (column 2, lines 39-45, column 3, lines 44-47);

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- Wherein said main server enables a first one of the client programs connected to a network site in one of the cells to identify a second one of the client programs and to form a session with that second client program that collaboratively browses the network sites (column 2, lines 29-33, 56-60, 63-65, column 3, lines 34-41, 50-56, column 4, lines 18-22);
- Wherein the main server stores a location of the network site to which the session is connected (column 3, lines 58-61, column 4, lines 10-12).

As per claim 2, Anupam discloses a collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein the main server enables a client program connected to a network site in one of the cells to identify at least two additional client programs among the plurality of client programs and to form the session with said additional client programs (column 3, lines 34-41, 63-65, column 4, lines 12-22).

As per claim 3, Anupam discloses a collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein the client programs in the session follow a session leader (column 4, lines 27-30).

As per claim 4, Anupam discloses a collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein each client program in the session can communicate with other client programs in the session (column 2, lines 33-35, column 4, lines 30-35).

As per claims 5-6, Anupam further discloses a collaborative browsing system according to claim 3, wherein each client program in the session can communicate with other client programs in other sessions in the one cell (column 5, lines 15-20).

As per claims 8-9, 16, Anupam discloses a collaborative browsing system according to claims 3 and 14, wherein any client program in the session can act as a session leader (column 4, lines 40-43).

As per claim 10, Anupam discloses a collaborative browsing system according to claim 1, wherein the computer network is the Internet (column 2, lines 19-21).

As per claim 11, Anupam discloses a collaborative browsing system according to claim 10, wherein the network sites are Web sites (column 2, lines 29-33).

As per claim 12, Anupam discloses a collaborative browsing system according to claim 11, wherein the locations are each identified by a Universal Resource Locator code (column 2, lines 23-33, column 3, lines 34-35).

As per claim 13, Anupam discloses a collaborative browsing system according to claim 12, wherein the one cell is comprised of a plurality of locations each having a corresponding Universal Resource Locator code (column 2, lines 23-33).

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As per claim 15, Anupam discloses the method according to claim 14, wherein the first network site is the second network site (column 4, lines 10-12).

As per claim 17, the method according to claim 14, further comprising:

- Assigning a plurality of network site locations to a cell (column 2, lines 19-21, 44-45, 47-48, column 3, lines 58-60);
- Tracking the first session and a plurality of other sessions in the cell (column 3, lines 20-24, 37-39);
- Informing client programs in the first session of other client programs in the other sessions in the cell (column 3, lines 58-60, column 4, lines 44-46).

As per claim 18, Anupam discloses the method according to claim 14, further including causing the client programs in the first session to follow the first session when the first session changes a network site to which it is connected (column 4, lines 18-26).

As per claim 19, Anupam discloses a method of collaboratively browsing a network according to claim 14, wherein one of the client programs communicates with another client program in the first session (column 4, lines 30-35).

As per claim 20, Anupam discloses a method of collaboratively browsing a network according to claim 14, wherein one of the individual client programs in the first

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session communicates with a client program in one of the other sessions in the cell (column 6, lines 58-67, column 6, lines 1-6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anupam et al. (hereinafter "Anupam", US Patent 5,862,330) in view of Shuang et al. (hereinafter "Shuang", US Patent Publication 2004/0133639 A1).

As per claim 7, Anupam discloses a collaborative browsing system according to claim 1.

Anupam does not explicitly disclose wherein the main server sends advertisements to at least one client program.

However, in an analogous art, Shuang discloses client receiving different renderings of the same page. Some examples are webpages with banner ads that can be randomly generated by the server (paragraph [0034]).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to incorporate or implement Shuang's advertisement in Anupam's system in order to show the user a different item or view of the webpage.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara N. Burgess whose telephone number is (571) 272-3996. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00am-4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

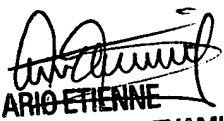
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Barbara N Burgess
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

June 21, 2006


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